



# International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

November 21, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

JAMES T. CALLAHAN  
GENERAL PRESIDENT

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) supports H.R. 1900, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act, legislation designed to expedite the environmental review by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of natural-gas pipelines. We respectfully request that you support this legislation when it comes to the floor of the House of Representatives today.

The International Union of Operating Engineers represents 400,000 working men and women in the United States and Canada, thousands of whom build the nation's pipeline infrastructure. The International Union of Operating Engineers is one of four unions that are signatory to the National Pipeline Agreement.

The growth in the American natural-gas industry has been partially responsible for the record-setting employment in the oil and gas pipeline segment of the construction sector. In April of this year, the number of jobs in that segment of the construction industry reached an all-time high.

Regulatory uncertainty and procedural delay during environmental reviews have hindered the growth of jobs related to the natural-gas industry. Congress should establish sound policies to guide domestic natural-gas development in order to maximize the economic opportunities from this clean-burning fossil fuel. H.R. 1900 will address the problem and help streamline the process to permit natural gas pipelines. Even the regulator, FERC, believes that this legislation is achievable and valuable, according to testimony in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Enactment of H.R. 1900 is only one important step to help set the booming natural gas sector on a sound footing for the future, which is why the International Union of Operating Engineers respectfully seeks your support for the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James T. Callahan  
General President

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GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

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